

## Letter from Mabel Hubbard Bell to Eliza Symonds Bell, August 8, 1879, with transcript

Letter from Mrs. Alexander Graham Bell to Mrs. Alexander Melville Bell. Cambridge, August 8th., 1879. My dear Mrs. Bell:

Your kind letter the other day has made me properly ashamed of my delay in writing. I can't plead heat in excuse since you write in spite of it but it has been very warm and last Saturday drove us to seek coolness by the seashore. Vain hope — it was hotter than over there and much did I wish we had staid at home. On Monday it was delightfully cool and we staid on but it was rather disgusting to hear that it was quite as pleasant at home. We were at Rye Beach, N.H. and thought of staying through the week but Grandpa suddenly made up his mind to come on and Mr. Marsh brought him before he could change his mind. Poor Grandpa he is very weak and feeble. I think rather prematurely worn out, for his elder brother an old man of, over eighty is not half so feeble as he but then he has not worked and toiled for others as Grandpa has. It is very nice to have him here and he is bright and cheerful and has been telling Alec stories of his young days. One of the War of '12 when British Officers were quartered on his Aunt and he and other small boys armed with old pistols and awards surrounded the house, and how she came out and saying the officers had done no harm had paid for everything and were only doing there duty, put herself at their head and ordered them to right about face March— home. Which they did.

Alec lunched off Salmon Salad one day and get punished by a kind of rash breaking out all over his body. He spent three or four days soaking in the tub and is now about right. His workshop is in full operation and very happy is he over it. He gets up early in the morning and we scarcely see him again until dinner time. He has made a little wooden model of a new arrangement for Central office bell signals and is now trying to make a working model

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of it. I saw him today so busy hammering in his blacksmith shop that we stood by him some time before he saw us.

We are a houseful now, my two Sisters, two Cousins, Grandpa and Mamma besides ourselves and I must go now to see about having some more beds put up.

Elsie gross older more coquettish and fascinating every day, she says "pease Papa" (please) Mo (more) mi (milk) Adie (Adelaide) babie Be (Baby Bell) da da (thank you) bow wow, shu shu (go away dizzie) moo moo to the cows and chick chick to the hens. She delights in standing alone as long as she can and begins to walk from chair to chair.

With much love to Mr. Bell and all at home. What a hot Wedding trip you must have had. I bought a clock instead and a beauty we think it, black marble with bronze bas relief around the base and a figure of Aristotle at the top.

With much love, in haste, Mabel.